

CLAIMS:

1. An apparatus comprising:
a vehicle for movement over a floor of a containment area for raising hatchlings into birds;
5 a support on the vehicle for receiving a roll of a sheet material such that the roll can dispense the sheet material as a strip laid onto the floor as the vehicle is moved across the floor;
a hopper on the vehicle for receiving a feed material for the hatchlings;
and a dispensing nozzle of the hopper arranged for dispensing a layer
10 of the feed material onto the strip after the strip is laid as the vehicle is moved forwardly.
2. The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the nozzle is elongate extending across the width of the strip of sheet material so as to deposit feed material substantially across the full width.
- 15 3. The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the nozzle is arranged relative to the strip such that the nozzle leaves spaces free from the feed at the side edges of the strip.
4. The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the nozzle includes a shut-off valve for closing off feed when the vehicle is halted.
- 20 5. The apparatus according to Claim 4 wherein the shut-off valve comprises a closure plate underneath the nozzle operable by a lever.
6. The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the support for the

roll is mounted on the vehicle in front of the hopper.

7. The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the support for the roll is raised from floor.

8. The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the vehicle has ground wheels for supporting the hopper.

9. The apparatus according to Claim 8 wherein the ground wheels are arranged on either side of strip.

10. The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the vehicle is a trailer arranged to be towed.

11. A method comprising:
providing a vehicle for movement over a floor of a containment area for raising hatchlings into birds;

providing a support on the vehicle for receiving a roll of a sheet material;

15 dispensing the sheet material as a strip laid onto the floor as the vehicle is moved across the floor;

providing a hopper on the vehicle for receiving a feed material for the hatchlings;

20 and dispensing the feed through a nozzle of the hopper as a layer of the feed material onto the strip after the strip is laid as the vehicle is moved forwardly such that the strip is held down in place on the floor by the feed from the nozzle.

12. The method according to Claim 11 wherein the nozzle is

elongate extending across the width of the strip of sheet material so as to deposit feed material substantially across the full width.

13. The method according to Claim 1 including arranging the nozzle relative to the strip such that the nozzle leaves spaces free from the feed at the side edges of the strip.

14. The method according to Claim 11 including closing off feed through the nozzle when the vehicle is halted.

15. The method according to Claim 14 wherein the feed is shut off by a closure plate underneath the nozzle operable by a lever.

16. The method according to Claim 14 wherein the vehicle is a trailer towed by a tractor on which the operator rides and wherein the feed is shut off by a lever operable by the operator on the tractor.

17. The method according to Claim 11 wherein the strip is laid flat on the floor and held in place solely by the feed material laid thereon.

18. The method according to Claim 11 wherein the feed is applied in a layer of constant thickness substantially across the full width of the strip leaving a band at each edge of the strip which is free from the feed.